

# Wash Day as I Remember It

BY ALTA J. HOWARD

When I was a girl in Richfield in 1908 I lived in one of the better homes. We were considered affluent because Papa built Mama a Wash House. This was no simple task. It required careful planning.

The building was about 10 feet by 12 feet in size, of frame construction with a shingled roof, one window, one door, and a wide front step. It was painted white so it would match the house.

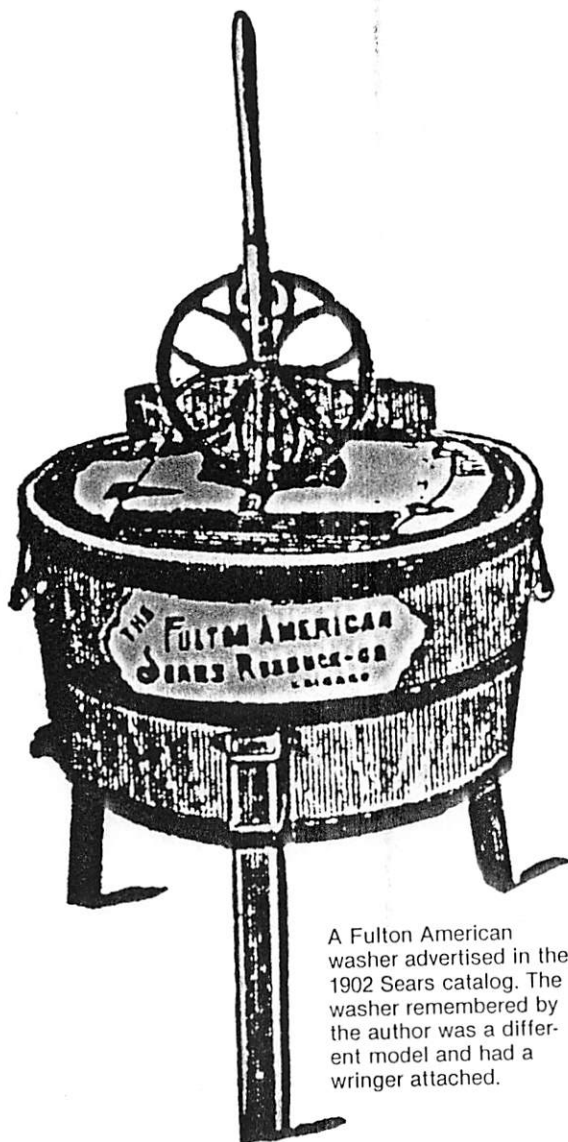
The building stood about 10 feet from the back kitchen door and was equipped with the latest conveniences — a wood stove, a wooden washer with a wringer attached, a bench with two tubs, one for rinsing and one with a washboard for scrubbing, and a table on which to sort clothes. The water was just a few steps outside, which was so convenient.

From the doorstep, Papa had erected two pulley lines. Each line was extended about 50 feet away into the trees. We could stand at the door and hang the clothes on the line and pull them up into the air to dry. They looked beautiful hanging there; but if the wind happened to be blowing, we were unable to use it because the line would break and the clothes would land on the ground. I remember that happened once, and it was necessary to rewash some of the clothes.

Now, this entire operation was very advanced for 1908, and we were the envy of the neighborhood. Papa always tried to make life better for Mama. The Wash House made washday so much easier because it kept the mess out of the kitchen, kept the house cooler, and was really a great convenience for Mama.

We were a large family — six girls, one boy, two grandmothers, one uncle, and Mama and Papa — which meant that washings were large and required family cooperation. The two older girls helped Mama with the wash, and the younger ones dressed and cared for the small children and prepared breakfast.

There were certain rules rigidly followed at our house. Washday was always on Monday. A neighbor who failed to wash then was judged accordingly. One could always tell the good housekeepers by the Monday washday and how the clothes were arranged on the clothesline.



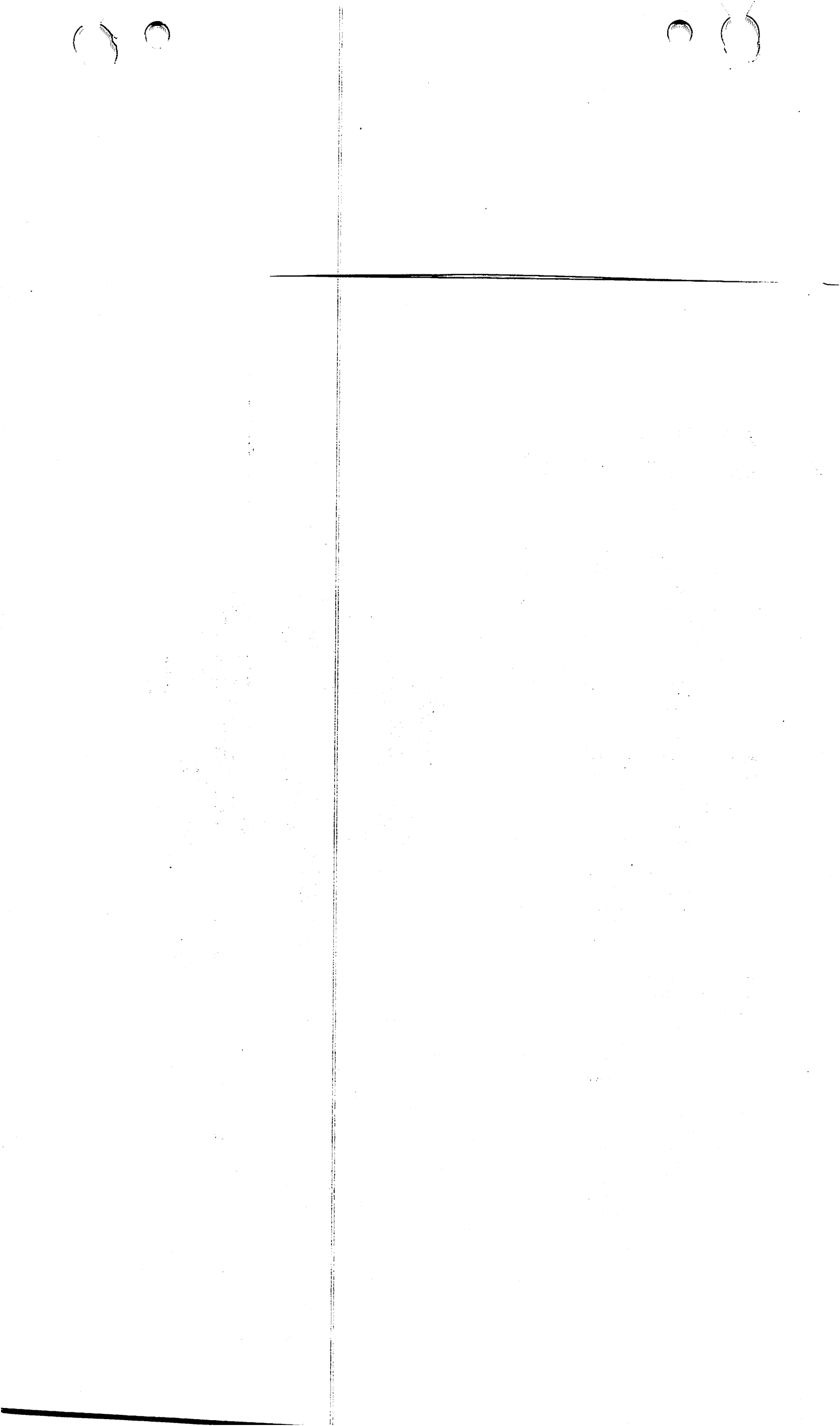
A Fulton American washer advertised in the 1902 Sears catalog. The washer remembered by the author was a different model and had a wringer attached.

People in little towns have various ways to classify their neighbors. Those who failed to wash on Monday were poor housekeepers.

Monday morning was well planned. Mama and the two girls were up at 5:00 a.m. and busy. First a fire was started in the Wash House stove. Then it was necessary to fill the two boilers with water from the nearby well and place them on the stove to heat.

The boilers were large containers designed to fit over two holes on the stove and to fit side by side so both could heat at the same time. That was a real convenience.

Heating the water was a slow process, and it was necessary to keep feeding the fire. This time was used for breakfast and for sorting clothes to prepare them for the washer. Sorting was very important. If any colored clothes were mixed with the whites, they would fade and ruin the others. There were no colorfast dyes then.



LES GO

## 100 Years Of Mason Jars

—By Les Goates

**N**OW, WOULDN'T that jar you! Here it is, the 100th anniversary of the Mason jar and strange as it may seem, this famous and familiar glass container enters its second century as modern as it is historic.

Millions of housewives, and several times that many others, use the Mason jar every day, but few if any, have ever heard the story of this most beneficial product which has served American families for a full century. Mason jars, as we all know, are used and reused and even handed down from generation to generation.



The Michigan Farmer recently published a letter, such as might come from any American rural family, showing how these celebrated glass containers are passed on down from mother to daughter and maybe from father to son. The letter said: "We have a dozen one-quart Mason jars which my husband's grandmother gave us, filled with 'put-up' fruit, on our wedding day. I am still using these jars. We have been married 58 years."

**ONE OF THE AMAZING** angles on the use of these 100-year-old fruit jars is that the housewife can herself hither to the ultramodern supermarket and buy lids that fit 'em!

Behind the remarkable longevity of the Mason jar, of course, is the advance that science has made in the preservation of foods. It was in 1810, 48 years after John Mason patented his jar (Nov. 30, 1858) that Nicholas Appert, a French confectioner, published his "Principles of Food Preservation Through Sterilization."

Appert's theory was that intense heat would preserve fruits, fish, meats and vegetables by arresting the natural tendency to spoil. For this discovery he was awarded a 12,000-franc prize by the Emperor Napoleon.

Another nice break for inventor Mason came when Louis Pasteur, two years after Appert's discovery, showed the world how microorganisms, responsible for food fermentation, could be destroyed by heat, and food kept fresh in glass jars.

**WITH THAT SCIENTIFIC** go-ahead the fruit jar business went into a boom. It is estimated that 150 billion Mason jars, from the old glassblower type to the modern quick-mold styles have been used

these 100 years, not only for fruit, vegetable and meat storage but also for countless other purposes. A few second-hand uses that come to mind include: for storing baby's formula in the refrigerator; keeping all kinds of garden seeds over the winter; containing ready supply of cold water and juices; carrying around bugs, grasshoppers and garden snakes which the kids capture in the fields and covering over baby slip roses, in the flower garden.

Inventor Mason's wife, Jennie, bore him eight daughters, four of them twins, so it's no wonder Papa Mason patented a baby bottle.

**WITH HIS POPULAR** invention, blessing the homes of millions of families the world over, it is distressing to read that this very wise man died in poverty. He died of nephritis at the age of 70, a patient in the House of Relief on Hudson Street in lower Manhattan, a dim fadeout for one who did so much for his fellowman—including 100 million housewives.

### "NOISE-ANCE"

Our neighbors complain and find it a trial—  
Our teen-age youngsters, now plays the bass viol.

—Tamarack

end of it fastened into an upright beam with a pivot in each one. It turned on this pivot. On the other side of the loom was another large beam called the cloth beam upon which the finished cloth was wound.

The warp was then threaded through the threads of the harness. The harness was a large frame hanging from above on which heavy twisted threads were placed, sometimes starched, as they wore out so quickly with the warp crossing through them continually.

When the warp was threaded through the harness it was then fastened to the cloth beam ready for weaving. There were two sections of warp and the shuttle which held the quills mentioned above were run between these two sections to make the first thread of woof or filling. Then the weaver placed her foot on one of the treadles at the bottom of the loom and this made the two sections of warp cross each other. The one which had first been on top would be shifted to the bottom. Again the shuttle was put back through between the two sections. Again the threads are beaten together with the beating beam. This repeated until the length of cloth desired was finished.

The spools were made of wood and wound full by twisting a large wheel to which they were attached. These spools were then placed on a large frame called a scorn ready for winding onto the beam.

When all-wool cloth was made they used woolen threads for both warp and woof. For linsey, cotton thread was used for the warp and wool thread for the woof.

They made plaid cloth by having the quills filled with different colored yarns. When making all-wool cloth the woolen threads for the warp were wound.—*Orderville, Camp 2 Records.*

#### CARPET WEAVING

"The song of the loom has clicked its staccato music through the primitive history of every nation that has taken part in the civilization of the world."

The complicated textile machinery of today is a natural development from that used by primitive weavers of all time. Old looms took up much room and were heavy to handle, but they were of stable construction and more desirable than many of the smaller and more attractive ones in use today. For hand weaving has again become popular, and charming rugs and textiles are being made in institutions and in the home.

The hand loom used by the Pioneers for carpet-weaving consisted of a solid framework, with a roller at each end, over which the warp threads were stretched, running through a series of eyelets called heddles. The machine was four and a half or five feet high, the same in width and about six feet in length. The timbers used were of hardwood, five or six inches square, and, in the oldest looms, hewed out by hand from hickory or oak. They were finished with mortise and tenon joints and keyed together with wooden pins.

Weaving is the process of drawing transverse threads known as the "woof" or "weft" through alternate lengthwise threads known as the "warp." In the case of rag carpets, the woof is the rag sewed together and wound on shuttles. Threading the loom with the warp involves more careful work than the actual weaving. Warping consists in arranging in par-

allel lines as many threads as are required to weave the desired width, and as long as the piece of material is to be. Twelve threads to the inch is an average number in rag weaving. With different colored warp, the design of stripes, etc., is made.

When the loom is properly warped and the rags are wound on the shuttles, the weaver sits down, and by means of a foot treadle lifts half the warp up so the shuttle can be sent across between the two lines of warp. Then by means of a second treadle, the warp is lowered, and the "woof" of rag is pounded into place by the *reed* attached to a heavy part of the framework. This process goes on hour after hour, and day after day, until the correct number of yards has been completed.

The preparation of the rags is no easy task. They must first be washed thoroughly and the light ones dyed the desired bright or dark colors. Then they must be torn or cut into strips varying from a half inch to an inch and a fourth in width, depending upon the fineness of the rug desired.

When all the floor coverings of the pioneer homes were hand woven, "sewing bees" were very popular. A group of friends would be invited to the home, and would be seated around a large basket of prepared rags, where, for hours, they would sew and wind, while their tongues kept time to their flying needles. Luncheon would be served by the hostess, after which the sewing and visiting would continue until the original basket of soft fluffy rags had become one of hard balls ready to go to the weaver. Later, the sewing machine superseded the "sewing bee," and while mother sewed the rags together, a little daughter sat at her feet snipping the lengths apart. About two pounds of rags were required for each yard of carpet.

During the busy season, arrangements had to be made with the weaver weeks in advance, when one desired sufficient carpet to cover a large floor. Careful measurements were made, and the material was woven in lengths, with a few inches allowed for stretching. These strips were usually a few inches less than one yard in width, and were sewed together with heavy linen or cotton thread strengthened by frequent applications of wax obtained from the village shoemaker.

When a home-maker desired a particularly beautiful rug for a dainty bed room, light rags were gathered, dyed a lovely blue or rose and self-colored warp was used, thus making a solid blue or rose carpet which was most effective.

When the carpet was finally ready to be laid, the men of the family were called in. After the rude wooden floor was thoroughly scrubbed clean, new straw was brought from the barnyard and laid smoothly for a pad. Then two men, with the help of the ladies, would carefully place the carpet over it and the real work of stretching and tacking commenced—and that was a real job. Two sides were tacked and then the new stiff material was pulled and stretched by hand until it was taut above the soft pad of straw, and how everyone loved to walk on the beautiful new carpet! No Persian or Chinese rug with deepest silky pile has ever given more pride and satisfaction than those beautiful hand-loomed rag carpets of our pioneer homes.—*Jeanette M. Morrell.*

#### THE THREE WEAVERS

The three wives of Frederick Peterson, the potter, were weavers. Anna



# This Week

MAGAZINE

## Dick Clark Speaking

A new column by TV's brightest young star. Page 28

Starting in this issue:

First Thanksgiving at the  
new Wayside Inn... an  
adventure in good eating by  
Clementine Paddelford. Page 24



The Salt Lake Tribune

November 23, 1958



# UTAH

HISTORICAL QUARTERLY



**The Frontier Legacy**

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*An early log home in Bluff, Utah, photographed in 1907. USHS collections, gift of Neil M. Judd.*

While there was no such conspiracy between Mormons and Indians to drive out the gentiles, there developed a spirit of competition among the white men for roads and resources. For instance, the ties between the Colorado settlers in Utah and the towns of Colorado were natural. Mancos and Durango served as depots for goods that were eventually freighted to the lower San Juan. It did not take the Mormons long to realize that although the Hole-in-the-Rock trail was an accomplishment, it was impractical to use as a shipping route to Escalante and beyond, and so they also turned to freighting to and from



## Pioneers' Adobe Houses Improved on Log Cabin

In Utah the log cabin, traditional kind of frontier home, lost out to a far more common—and longer enduring—type of pioneer dwelling, the adobe house.

Hardly a descendant of early settlers can be found who does not claim that at one time or another his parents or grandparents lived in a home constructed entirely or in part of the sun-dried clay blocks locally called "dobies."

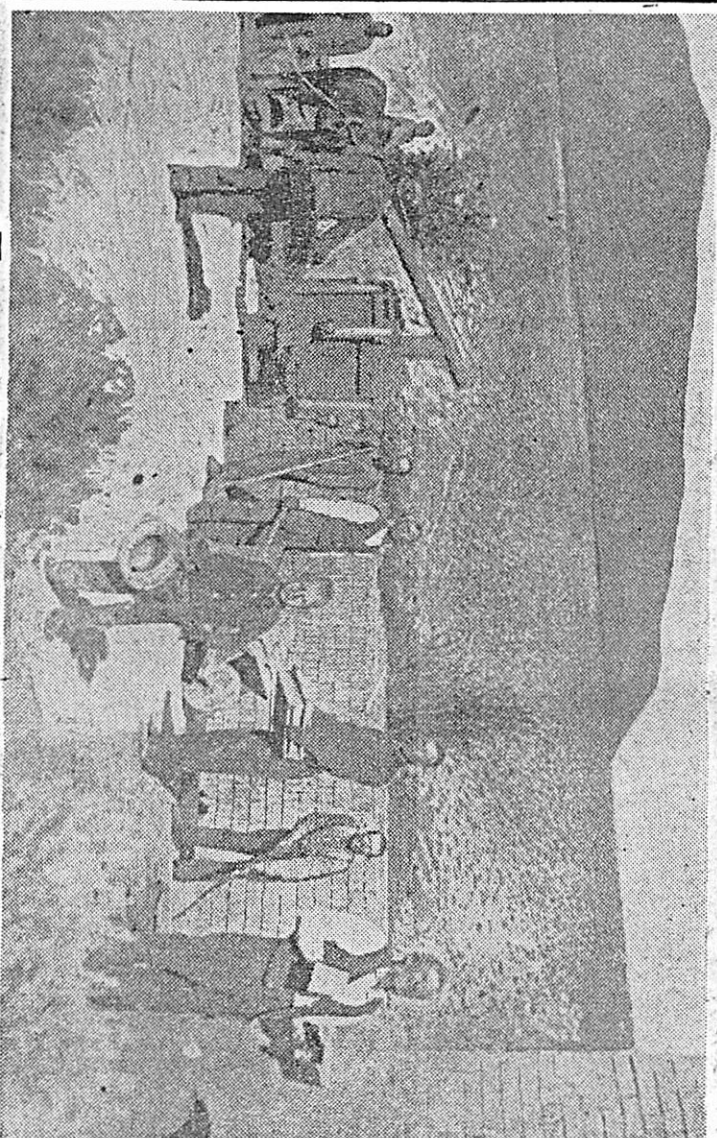
Perhaps it was members of the Mormon battalion, some credit Capt. James Brown, who carried the refinements of making and building with adobes to the mountain valleys.

Mixing the "mud"—it had to include clay—sometimes was a job for barefooted men and boys, and a shallow basin scraped in the earth was the mixing bowl. Shaped into bricks by wooden forms and laid out in the sun to

dry, the adobe soon was ready to be laid in a wall bound together by wet mortar of the same materials.

Better organized enterprises provided "dobies" and even kiln-baked bricks for entire communities. Today's Centennial contest photo, submitted by Mrs. Joseph Pitts, Marysvale, is said to have been the first adobe mill and brick kiln in Plute county.

Horses did the mixing here by walking around in a circle pulling on a pole connected to the large mill. Those in the picture were, left to right, Peter T. Pitts, Henry Howes, William Howes Jr., Joseph Howes, Marshall Brown, Isiah Howes, Charles Cracraft, Joseph Pitts, Thomas Howes, John Howes and William Howes. It was taken in 1885 about three miles south of Marysvale near Cottonwood creek.



### Turned Earth Into Frontier Homes

Nearly everyone was in the building industry | brick kiln turned earth into material for homes, then. Near Marysvale, this pioneer adobe mill and | Mud mix for "dobies" was stirred by draft horses.

(Tribune Centennial Photo.)

## New England

• BAKERIES •

CHOCOLATE

ECLAIRS

each 10c



PUMPKIN  
PIES . . each 39c



WEDNESDAY  
SPECIALS

HARD ROLLS Plain or Sesame Seed . . . . . doz. 27c  
DATE SQUARES . . . . . doz. 39c

get a **Relieve**

**Dry, Stuffy**  
**Nose FAST!**

A few drops of Vicks Va-tro-nol in each nostril work fast right where trouble is! Va-tro-nol opens up cold - congested, breathing passages and relieves sneezy, sniffling head cold, distress. Follow directions in package.



**VICKS VA-TRO-NOL**

## Easing Cattle Disease Law Worries Livestock Group

American livestockmen are concerned over relaxation of sanitation laws designed to prevent spread of foot and mouth disease into the United States from Mexico, James A. Hooper, secretary of Utah Wool Growers Assn., said Tuesday after returning to Salt Lake City.

Mr. Hooper attended the mid-winter conference of National Livestock Producers in Chicago. He said livestockmen expressed skepticism over use of a new vaccine "still in the experimental stages" as a substitute for slaughter and burial of infected animals. Before returning to Utah, Mr. Hooper attended the annual meet-

## Center Schedules Cancer Exams

Registration for the monthly cancer detection center will be held Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m. at headquarters of the Utah division, American Cancer society, 32 Exchange pl., Mrs. Emill de Neuf, state commander, announced Monday.

Persons who feel they may have symptoms of cancer are invited to register for examinations which will be given Dec. 17 at St. Mark's hospital, she said.



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## UTAH 'BIRTHPLACE'

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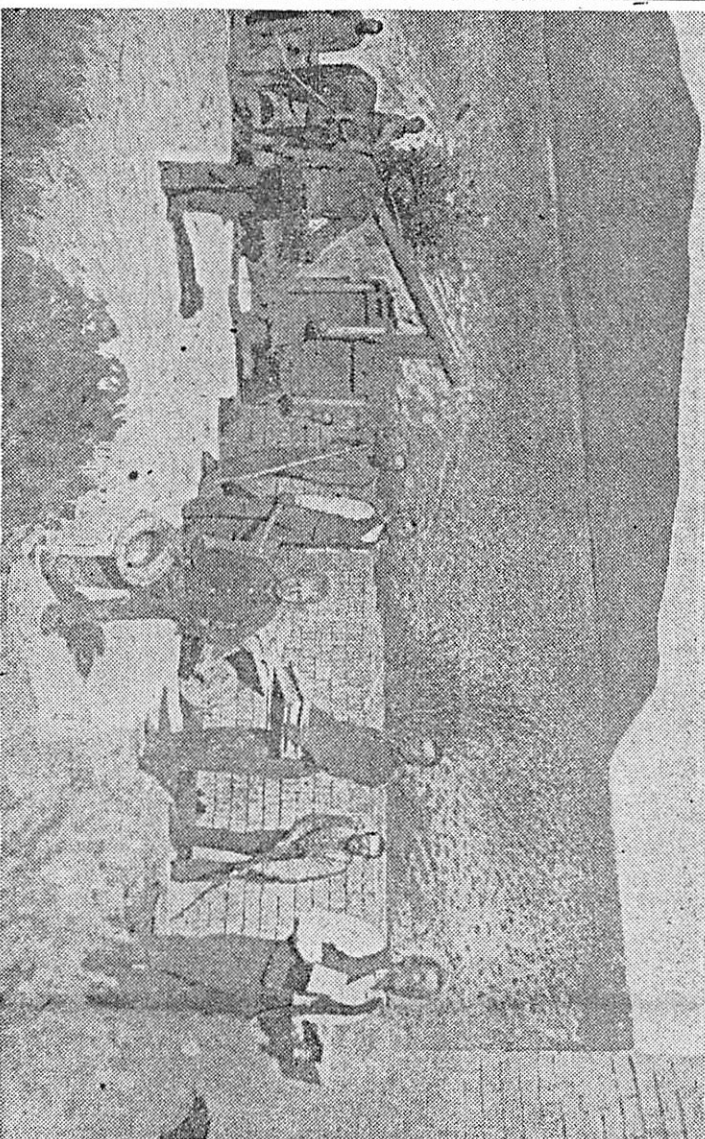
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the new h